

Appl. No. 10/059,345
Response dated Friday, October 08, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 15, 16 and 17 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,341,277 to Coden (hereinafter "Coden"). Claims 1, 15, 16 and 17 have been amended for clarity. Consequential and clarifying amendments have been made to claims 2-7 and 9-14.

New claims 19-25 are presented for consideration by the Examiner.

The applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are not anticipated by Coden.

Specifically, as claimed, possible results and Boolean expressions associated with these results are stored. The Boolean expressions are applied to terms contained in an input query. Based on matches of the Boolean expressions to the queries, results are presented.

By stark contrast, the portions of Coden referred to by the Examiner appear to disclose an object oriented query method and query objects. Query objects transform a received query into a Boolean expression (see, for example, Column 6 lines 34-45). The Boolean expressions are then applied to a database to generate matching results (see, for example, Coden column 8, lines 29-32). Thus, Boolean expressions do not appear to be associated with possible responses, nor stored in association with responses that may be provided to a user. Moreover, in Coden any Boolean expression appears to be formed from a query and applied to a database. Boolean expressions are not applied to the query, as claimed. Results provided in Coden, thus depend directly on the content of the database. As claimed, this is not necessary. Instead, results may be based solely with reference to the query.

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For all of these reasons, Coden simply does not anticipate claims 1, 15, 16 and 17. Similarly, any combination of Coden and the remaining references applied by the Examiner cannot render dependent claims 2-14 obvious. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-18- under 35 USC 102 and 103 in view of Coden is earnestly requested.

New claims 19-25 are presented for consideration by the Examiner. It is believed that these claims, too, are allowable in view of the applied references.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In view of the foregoing favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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